

Mayflower Tailings Ponds: A Potentially Toxic Tragedy

Kirsten Shaw

Courier Staff

The 19th century was a gold mine for many Summit and Wasatch County residents, but it has left a toxic legacy of concern. Like a millennium new year's eve celebration, the party was fun, but the hangover was not.

The various mining companies did what they could (or, at least, what they had to,) to clean up the mess and tailings ponds were stationed below mines for toxic waste deposits. The Mayflower tailings, full of cadmium, lead, manganese and arsenic are highly toxic if breathed or consumed, and the Jordanelle Reservoir, campgrounds, homeowners, and a school possibly slated to be built could all be in serious danger.

Dennis Frederick, Utah Division of Water Quality Groundwater Protection Manager, is very familiar with the Mayflower tailings. The ponds are similar to clay, containing moisture—some evaporating, some seeping through at a slow rate. He said monitors show elevated concentrations of a metal, solids and sulfate levels. He also said the Environmental Protection Agency



Toxic tailings pond overlooking state park campground.

(E.P.A.) is considering making the tailings, owned by Holland's Arie Bogerd a superfund site.

"The E.P.A. superfund people said (Mayflower tailings) could score, there was enough of a risk there, but the

(Bogerd) could do something and it would get done quicker and be less expensive to taxpayers," said Frederick.

"He's been given a notice of viola-

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BACK TO SCHOOL!

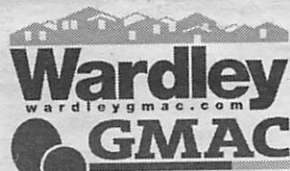
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as Utah's first lawman, is among the most controversial figures in state history.



After two years of planning, the Ogden Council of the Knights of Columbus erects a bust of Mother Teresa and a stone monument to unborn babies that fronts Ogden's St. Joseph's Church at Adams and 24th Street.



Grudging public respect for ahead-of schedule 1-15 construction takes a hit with suit by Jakco Enterprises, Heber City dirt-hauling firm, against Wasatch Constructors and subcontractor Ralph Smith Co. for allegedly extorting gifts and services, a charge the contractors vigorously deny.



Are Midvale citizens unusually perceptive in realizing benefits of town's hefty property tax increase (improved police, fire and paramedic service), or simply apathetic in failing to oppose the move in last week's public hearing?



Gordon B. Hinckley, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, speaks out strongly against clannishness, intolerance and bigotry among members of LDS church at a devotional for Brigham Young University alumni. He suggests the Good Samaritan as an LDS role model.



"Land Of Honey" subdivision in Roy flows with something else—raw sewage—after severe storm floods basements of 80 homes and causes sewer backup. Angry citizens drown out City Manager Blake Wahlen at public hearing and threaten class action lawsuit.



Utah Valley State College, Orem, whose stock has—until recently—soared due to innovative programs and acquisitions of top-flight faculty from BYU, concedes "unfortunate" PR gaffe by UVSC Police, who handcuff and jail a student who tears up an expired parking permit rather than relinquishing it.



Although "Candy Man" Paul H. Cummings, 67, dies, fortunately for Utah chocoholics, wife and business partner Marion Cummings carries on with Cummings Studio Chocolates, considered among the best in the West.



Kudos to Olympic planner Bob Mathis and Midway City councilman Arlin Kohler for standing up to SLOC, and saying "show us the money" in the September 15th Deseret News article about the Olympics in Wasatch County. Too bad county commissioner Mike Kohler was his usual wishy-washy self

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his attorney, Max W

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Source: The A

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tion from our agency because we found slightly elevated groundwater pollution levels and some problems with offsite tailings moving. Bogerd hasn't gone forward with remediating the site and never really addressed the groundwater issue. Personally, I felt he was looking for a free ride, trying to do whatever he could to get other people to take care of his problem for him."

In the 1980s, the tailings were seriously considered as a superfund site, but because there weren't enough receptors, it didn't get listed.

"I had always heard there were some sort of political shenanigans with that; I heard a local government official didn't want a superfund site there and put pressure on the E.P.A.," Frederick said. A "superfund site" tends to denote a very negative connotation-especially to prospective business and homeowners.

Wasatch officials, including Bob Mathis, LeeRoy Farrell and Phil Wright have been frustrated with the site for years, alleges Frederick. Bogerd, who plans to develop a four-season resort at the site, has promised agency officials for years that the tailings would be removed. He did not.

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TESCH

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